

Application No. 10/765,263
Amendment dated December 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 21-27, without prejudice, as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (ORIGINAL) A module for a utility trenching and sidewalk system, comprising:
two opposed outer sidewalls, each outer sidewall having a top end and a bottom end;
a bottom wall disposed proximate said bottom ends of said outer sidewalls and together with said outer sidewalls defining a channel having at least one interior compartment;
at least one cover configured to be removably received proximate said top ends of said outer sidewalls to enclose said channel;
at least one cavity formed in said sidewalls and said bottom wall for receiving wet, poured concrete; and
at least one aperture formed through said sidewalls and communicating with said cavity, said aperture sized to receive poured, wet concrete therethrough to fill said cavity.
2. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, wherein said cover and outer sidewalls define a recess above said cover for receiving paving material.

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3. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, wherein said cover is formed from paving material.
4. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, further comprising vent holes formed through at least one of said bottom wall and said sidewalls and communicating with said cavity to vent air from said cavity while said cavity is filled with concrete.
5. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, further comprising at least one inner sidewall having a top end and a bottom end, said inner sidewall disposed between said outer sidewalls to thereby form at least two interior compartments.
6. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 5, further comprising at least two covers, each cover configured to be removably received proximate said top ends of said inner sidewall and one of said outer sidewalls to thereby enclose a respective one of said interior compartments.
7. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1 formed as an integrally molded shell, said molded shell defining said outer sidewalls, said bottom wall, and said inner sidewall.
8. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 7, wherein said molded shell is formed from polyethylene.

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9. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of reinforcing ribs disposed along outwardly facing side surfaces of said outer sidewalls.
10. (ORIGINAL) The module of claim 1, further comprising at least one reference line disposed across the module between said outer sidewalls and oriented to facilitate subdividing the module into fractional pieces.
11. (ORIGINAL) A kit for forming a utility trenching and sidewalk system, comprising:
a modular base, including:
two opposed outer sidewalls, each outer sidewall having a top end and a bottom end,
a bottom wall disposed proximate said bottom ends of said outer sidewalls and together with said outer sidewalls defining a channel having at least one interior compartment,
at least one cavity formed in said sidewalls and said bottom wall for receiving poured, wet concrete, and
at least one aperture formed through said sidewalls and communicating with said cavity, said aperture sized to receive poured wet concrete therethrough to fill said cavity;
at least one cover configured to be removably received proximate said top ends of said outer sidewalls of said modular base to enclose said channel; and

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a first reinforcing member configured to be received within said cavity to reinforce concrete thereafter provided within said cavity.

12. (ORIGINAL) The kit of claim 11, wherein said first reinforcing member is configured to be secured within said cavity.

13. (ORIGINAL) The kit of claim 11, wherein said cover and outer sidewalls define a recess above said cover for receiving paving material, the kit further comprising a second reinforcing member configured to be received in said recess to reinforce concrete thereafter provided within said recess.

14. (ORIGINAL) A utility trenching and sidewalk system, comprising:

a plurality of modular utility trenching and sidewalk units arranged adjacent one another longitudinally end-to-end to form a substantially continuous conduit, each modular unit comprising:

two opposed outer sidewalls, each outer sidewall having a top end and a bottom end;

a bottom wall disposed proximate said bottom ends of said outer sidewalls and together with said outer sidewalls defining a channel having at least one interior compartment;

at least one cover configured to be removably received proximate said top ends of said outer sidewalls to enclose said channel;

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at least one cavity formed in said sidewalls and said bottom wall for receiving wet, poured concrete; and

at least one aperture formed through said sidewalls and communicating with said cavity, said aperture sized to receive poured wet concrete therethrough to fill said cavity.

15. The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, further comprising at least one first reinforcing member configured to be received within at least one of said cavities of said modular units.

16. (ORIGINAL) The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, wherein said cover and said outer sidewalls of each said modular unit define a recess above said cover for receiving paving material, the utility trenching and sidewalk system further comprising at least one second reinforcing member configured to be received in at least one of said recesses.

17. (ORIGINAL) The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, wherein at least one of said modular units is divided into fractional pieces and aligned with at least one adjacent modular unit to change the direction of said conduit formed by said plurality of modular units.

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18. (ORIGINAL) The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, further comprising concrete disposed within said cavity of at least one of said modular units.

19. (ORIGINAL) The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, wherein said cover and said outer sidewalls of each said modular unit define a recess above said cover for receiving paving material, the utility trenching and sidewalk system further comprising paving material disposed within at least one of said recesses.

20. (ORIGINAL) The utility trenching and sidewalk system of claim 14, wherein said modular units are formed from polyethylene.

21-27. (CANCELED)